

Today, Japan, as I mentioned, is a strong ally, an important economic partner and security partner. South Korea is a strong ally, important trading partner, and important security partner—albeit their democracy went through a difficult period of time. Democracies don't emerge on a straight line. Neither did ours. Our great democracy enslaved people for 100 years. All men were created equal, except some. We're reconfirming that belief that all men are created equal.

And so it takes a while for freedom to take root. It's hard work for societies to adopt the habits necessary for a free society to emerge. Interesting enough, in China, there's certainly not a free society, but there is a free marketplace emerging. And in 1950, that would have been a difficult prediction to make.

And so I believe liberty can take hold in parts of the world because history has shown it to be. Different time, no question; a different part of the world, no question. But if you have faith in the universality of freedom, and if you've seen history—liberty take hold before, it should give us confidence.

Finally, it's necessary for free societies to emerge—free societies in the image of a country's own history and tradition. And why is it in our interest that that happen? There is a root cause, there is a reason why 19 kids got on an airplane to come and kill us, and that is because societies in that part of the world have bred resentment and lack of hope.

I don't believe you can have a comfortable and secure society if half the people are not treated equally. There's something universal in our demands to be treated with respect. It matters what the form of government is, in terms of whether or not peace will emerge.

And so I believe that the liberty agenda, freedom agenda can take root, and I know it's necessary to make sure Grace can live in peace. I think people will look back at this period of time and make one or two judgments. They'll either say, what happened to them in 2007; how come they couldn't see the impending dangers that the little Graces of America would have to live with; how come they couldn't spot the radicalism that would emerge even more violent than it had been; how come they couldn't see the fact

that Iran would become emboldened if the United States of America didn't keep its commitments in Iraq; what was it that prevented them from recognizing that nations in the Middle East would tend to choose up sides and back violent regimes—violent groups in order to protect their own selves; how come they couldn't remember the lesson of September the 11th, which said, what matters overseas matters at home? Or they'll look back and say, they had faith; they had faith in the ability of liberty to transform a region into a region of hope that yielded the peace so little Grace can be amazed that this generation has done its job.

And those are the risks, and that's the task, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:44 a.m. at the Willard Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Steve L. Massie, chief executive officer, Jack L. Massie Contractor, Inc.; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Haytham Kazim Abdallah Al-Shimari, head of the Rusafa Al Qaida-Iraq bomb network; Qais Khazali, member, Khazali network, and Shi'a extremist leader; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan; Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea; and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. He also referred to H.R. 1591.

### Remarks Following Discussions With President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen

May 2, 2007

**President Bush.** It is my honor to welcome the President of Yemen to the Oval Office. I have gotten to know the President over the past 6 years of my Presidency. I feel comfortable saying, welcome, my friend.

I had the privilege of calling President Salih after the elections of Yemen. I told him—I said it was a remarkable occurrence that his great country had a free and open election. I've had a chance to congratulate him and thank him in person today.

We had a very good discussion about the neighborhood in which the President lives. And we spent a lot of time talking about our mutual desire to bring radicals and murderers to justice. And I thanked the President

for his strong support in this war against extremists and terrorists.

So I'm glad you're here.

**President Salih.** Thank you very much, Mr. President, for the good reception and hospitality and also for the excellent and fruitful talks that we had. I'm very pleased for the limitless support by President Bush and the United States for Yemen in the field of combating terror. Yemen is an essential partner with the United States of America and the international community in combating terror. We will continue in this path, on this track.

We had the chance to discuss a number of issues with Mr. President, including a number of issues in the Middle East region, the Palestinian-Israeli problem and the situation in Somalia, the situation in Iraq, Lebanon, Afghanistan. We found a complete understanding on the issues that we have discussed with Mr. President Bush. We also discussed the bilateral relations between Yemen and the United States.

I would like, on this occasion, to highly express my gratification and my appreciation for the brave position taken by President Bush since the first moment he took power in this country, since he expressed his belief in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, side by side with the State of Israel. And I wish that His Excellency would pursue his effort and will continue his efforts in implementing the Arab initiative, which was adopted in the summit of Beirut, to maintain peace in the region. I am sure that adopting such initiative would end 70 percent of the problems in the region.

Of course, you will be in history if you can be successful in establishing the independent Palestinian state before leaving the White House.

*Shukran.*

**President Bush.** *Shukran.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Salih spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

*May 2, 2007*

I thank the leaders from Congress for coming down to discuss the Iraq funding issue. Yesterday was a day that highlighted differences. Today is a day where we can work together to find common ground. I will inform the Speaker and the leader of our serious intent, and to that end, I am going to name our Chief of Staff, Josh Bolten, along with Steve Hadley and Rob Portman to work with members of both parties to fund our troops.

I think it's very important we do this as quickly as we possibly can. I'm confident that we can reach agreement. I know that it's going to require good will, but we all care deeply about our country and care about this issue. And so I want to thank the Members for coming down again. I'm looking forward to our discussions. I'm looking forward to what will be constructive set of discussions and negotiations.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:46 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

## Remarks on the National Day of Prayer

*May 3, 2007*

Good morning, and welcome to the White House. I'm honored to join you for this National Day of Prayer. I'm sorry Laura is not here. She is camping in one of our national parks. [*Laughter*] I appreciate the chairman—chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, Shirley Dobson. Thank you for your leadership on this important day. And I see you brought your husband, Jim.

The 2007 honorary chairman is with us, and that's Chuck Swindoll. Thank you, Chuck, for being here, and I'm glad you brought Cynthia as well. Welcome. I appreciate the members of the Cabinet who have joined. I appreciate the Members of the Congress. Thank you all for being here.

And the mayor—Mr. Mayor, thank you, sir. It's good to see you. Thanks for joining